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LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting data generated by a keyboard, comprising the steps of:

reading data from a keypad of the keyboard;

reading an encryption seed from a device reader connected to the keyboard;

encrypting the read data using the encryption seed; and

transmitting the encrypted data from the keyboard to a computer.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprises the steps of receiving the transmitted encrypted data by the computer; and

decrypting the received encrypted data by the computer.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of transmitting comprises the step of using a wireless link over which the encrypted data is transmitted.

4. (Canceled)

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5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [6] 1 wherein the step of reading the encryption seed comprises the step of enabling the device reader with a personal identification number.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 8 wherein the step of receiving the start signal comprises the step of~~ A method for protecting data generated by a keyboard, comprising the steps of:

generating ~~the~~ a start signal by at least one of a special key on keyboard [,] or multi-actuation of a number of keys on the keypad~~, the computer, or a server~~

reading data from a keypad of the keyboard;

encrypting the read data in response to the start signal; and

transmitting the encrypted data from the keyboard to a computer.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of claim 1 wherein the step of encrypting comprises the step of~~

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A method for protecting data generated by a keyboard, comprising the steps of:

reading data from a keypad of the keyboard;

encrypting the read data in response to the start signal; and

transmitting the encrypted data from the keyboard to a computer

receiving a stop signal;

stopping the encryption of the read data and transmission of the encrypted data from the keyboard to the computer ~~that stops the encryption~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein the step of receiving the stop signal comprises the step of generating the stop signal by at least one of a special key on keyboard [,] or multi-actuation of a number of keys on the keypad~~, the computer, or a server~~.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method for protecting by a computer data generated by a keyboard where the keyboard is directly connected to the computer, comprising the steps of:

receiving encrypted data from the keyboard by the computer; and

decrypting the encrypted data by the computer.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of decrypting comprises the step of performing operations of decryption by at least one of a keyboard driver executing on the computer or an application executing on the computer.

15. (Original) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of decrypting comprises the step of using a seed.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of using comprises the step of reading the encryption seed from a device reader connected to the computer.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein the step of reading the encryption seed comprises the step of enabling the device reader with a personal identification number.

18. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprises the step of generating a start signal to cause the keyboard to start encrypting data.

19. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprises the step of generating a stop signal to cause the keyboard to stop encrypting data.

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20. (Original) The method of claim 13 further comprises the step of transmitting program information to the keyboard to define encryption operations.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A keyboard for encrypting data before transmission to a computer directly connected to the keyboard via a link, comprising:

an interface connected to the link;

a memory;

a keypad for generating the data;

a device reader for reading a directly connected device to obtain a seed for an encryption routine;

a processor for encrypting using the seed the generated data by execution of [an] the encryption routine stored in the memory; and

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transmitting the encrypted data to the computer via the interface and link.

27. (Original) The keyboard of claim 26 wherein the link is a wireless link.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Original) The keyboard of claim 26 comprises a special key which when actuated causes the processor to at least start executing the encryption routine or stop executing the encryption routine.

31. (Currently Amended) A processor-readable medium for protecting data generated by a keyboard, comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

reading data from a keypad of the keyboard;

reading an encryption seed from a device reader connected to the keyboard;

encrypting the read data using the encryption seed; and

transmitting the encrypted data from the keyboard to a computer.

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32. (Original) The processor-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the transmitting comprises using a wireless link over which the encrypted data is transmitted.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim ~~35~~ 31 wherein the reading the encryption seed comprises enabling the device reader with a personal identification number.

37. (Canceled)

38. (Currently Amended) ~~The processor-readable medium of claim 37 wherein the start signal is generated~~ A processor-readable medium for protecting data generated by a keyboard, comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

generating ~~the~~ a start signal by at least one of a special key on keyboard [,] or multi-actuation of a number of keys on the keypad~~, the computer, or a server~~

reading data from a keypad of the keyboard;

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encrypting the read data in response to the start signal; and

transmitting the encrypted data from the keyboard to a computer.

39. (Currently Amended) ~~The processor-readable medium of claim 31 wherein the encrypting comprises~~ A processor-readable medium for protecting data generated by a keyboard, comprising processor-executable instructions configured for:

reading data from a keypad of the keyboard;

encrypting the read data in response to the start signal; and

transmitting the encrypted data from the keyboard to a computer

receiving a stop signal;

stopping the encryption of the read data and transmission of the encrypted data from the keyboard to the computer ~~that stops the encryption~~.

40. (Currently Amended) The processor-readable medium of claim 39 wherein the ~~the~~ stop signal generated by at least one of a special key on keyboard [,] or multi-actuation of a number of keys on the keypad~~, the computer, or a server~~.

41. (Canceled)

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42. (Original) An apparatus for executing the steps of claim 1.

43. (Original) An apparatus for executing the steps of claim 2.

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing the steps of claim [4] 9.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing the steps of claim [5] 10.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for executing the steps of claim [12] 11.

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